likely to be 92.91 million tonnes, which is 7.56 million tonnes or 7.5% less than last year's rabi production. The rabi oilseeds production is expected to be 6.99 million tonnes, which is 0.58 million tonnes or 7.7% lower than last year.

(c) to (e) In order to provide protection to farmers in the event of damage to crops due to natural calamities, the Government have introduced National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The NAIS, *inter-alia,* provides for premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers. In order to compensate the farmers for the increase in input costs, the Government announced special drought relief ranging from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per quintal for the rabi crops of 2002-03 season.

Improving Fish Production

341. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the catch of fish has declined in the Indian seas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to improve fish production, if so, the details thereof for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The marine fish production declined in 2000-01 over 1999-2000 mainly due to low rainfall during monsoon in Gujarat and fluctuations in climatic conditions in Kerala.

Marine fish production

(Lakh Metric Tonnes)

1999-2000	28.52
2000-2001	28.10
2001-2002	28.30

(c) The following major steps have been taken by the State Governments of Kerala and Gujarat to augment fish production:

(i) Development of infrastructure.

(ii) Enforcement of ban on fishing from 10th June to 15th August, 2002 in Gujarat.

(iii) Sales Tax subsidy on diesel used for fishing.

(iv) Subsidy on nets and boats.

(v) Sea Ranching.

(vi) Trawl ban in Kerala for 45 days.

(vii) Provision of Artificial Reef.

Coconut-mite disease in Orissa

342. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mites have been eating up coconut crop in Orissa;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on account of resource-crunch, the State authorities are not able to control this menace, as reported in the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar of 28th December, 2002;

(c) whether this disease had earlier affected the coconut production in other States; if so, the details thereof along with the action taken in the matter; and

(d) the assistance proposed to be rendered by the Centre to control this disease in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The incidence of coconut mite was reported in some parts of coastal districts of Orissa. As per the survey conducted by the State Department of Horticulture during July, 2002, around 2.41 lakh palms are infested by mite.

(b) After the report of incidence of coconut mite in Orissa in 2001, Coconut Development Board, immediately, released an amount of Rs. 16.00 lakhs during 2001-2002 under its Integrated Pest Management